

TECH SHARING SESSION

Ansible Tapas: A Series of Small Dishes for Ansible

A curated tasting menu of tools, resources, playbooks, and best practices.



Welcome & Guidelines

 **Interactive Session**



Ask Questions Anytime

Interactive session. No need to wait for the end of the presentation.



Active Participation

Share resources and tips you find useful. The goal is a shared learning experience.



Slides Available

Posted under the presentation section on my website.

 <https://www.grothe.us>

Discovery Strategy

🔍 Search Recipe

How to find curated community knowledge

I Want to Know About "X"

When exploring new tech ecosystems or looking for top-tier tools, standard search queries often return noise. Use the Awesome-list query pattern.

```
// Search Template
```

```
github awesome X
```

Live Example

To find the best tools, libraries, and frameworks in the Ansible ecosystem:

```
G github awesome ansible
```

💡 Pro-tip: Awesome lists are community-curated GitHub repositories gathering top resources in one place.

Featured Primary Collections

 3 Core Sources

We'll examine 26 total tapas items sourced from these three primary GitHub collections:

1. Awesome Ansible List

Maintained by the Ansible Community

github.com/ansible-community/awesome-ansible

2. Jdauphant's Ansible Collection

Curated roles, playbooks, and toolsets

github.com/jdauphant/awesome-ansible

3. Thomvail's Ansible Collection

Hand-picked tools, series, and cheat sheets

github.com/thomvail/awesome-ansible-1

Note: Each upcoming slide highlights one specific dish from these collections.

Important Caveats

 **KEEP IN MIND**



Dead Links

Some curated links may become dead over time. If a link fails, search Google for the topic name to find updated references or active forks.



Outdated Repositories

Some repositories may be unmaintained. Always check repo age, release dates, and last commit history before adopting in production.

 **We have 25 Resources, We'll go until we run out of Time :-)**

Slide Structure & Format

 Standard Template

1. SOURCE

Awesome / Jdauphant / Thomvail

2. Section

Tools, Playbooks, Videos, Tutorials, etc.

3. Topic

Name of the specific project or resource

4. Description

Summary of what it does & why it matters

5. Link

Direct URL or official repository



Ready for the Dishes?

Each upcoming slide represents one small dish ("tapa") served crisp and concise.

TOPIC: GET HELP

Ansible Forums

Pointer to official Ansible Forums. The central community hub for news, blog updates, troubleshooting, and discussion.

DEAD LINK

`http://www.ansible.com/forum`

CORRECT LINK

`https://forum.ansible.com/c/news/blog/20`

TOPIC: INTRO TUTORIAL

Ansible Tutorial by leucos

A really good step-by-step intro tutorial to Ansible. Excellent for onboarding team members new to automation concepts.

RESOURCE LINK

 <https://github.com/leucos/ansible-tuto>

TOPIC: MEDIA CHANNEL

Ansible YouTube Channel

Official Ansible YouTube channel featuring a lot of great content, keynotes, technical deep dives, and community demos.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPJ05UY1KsP7J1BuHmiWNzQ>

TOPIC: INFRASTRUCTURE STACK

DebOps

Extensive set of tools and playbooks to create an entire data center infrastructure on Debian/Ubuntu with Ansible.

DOCUMENTATION LINK

 <https://docs.debops.org/en/master/index.html>

TOPIC: ROLE HUB

Ansible Galaxy Website

The official repository and community platform for discovering, sharing, and downloading community Ansible Roles and Collections.

WEBSITE LINK

 <https://galaxy.ansible.com/>

TOPIC: UI MANAGEMENT

Semaphore

Semaphore is a clean, modern open-source web UI alternative to Ansible Tower / AWX for running playbooks.

GITHUB REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/ansible-semaphore/semaphore>

TOPIC: QUALITY ASSURANCE

Ansible Lint

Ansible Lint checks playbooks for best practices, deprecated syntax, safety risks, and suggests actionable code improvements.

TOOL LINK

 <https://github.com/ansible/ansible-lint>

TOPIC: ARCHITECTURE DESIGN

Enhancing Ansible Development with SOLID Principles

Applies core software engineering SOLID principles (Single Responsibility, Open-Closed, Liskov Substitution, Interface Segregation, Dependency Inversion) to Ansible playbook architecture.

ARTICLE / REPO LINK

 <https://github.com/kksat/SOLID-Ansible>

TOPIC: VIDEO SERIES

Ansible TopTechSkills Series

Great tutorial series on YouTube. Highlights include performance optimization: "Speed up Ansible (Mitogen vs Pipelining is really good)".

YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiooWsMERaY>

TOPIC: WORKSTATION PROVISIONING

Mac Development Ansible Playbook

By Jeff Geerling. Demonstrates how to use Ansible to fully automate software setup, dotfiles, and system configurations on macOS.

PLAYBOOK REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/geerlingguy/mac-dev-playbook>

TOPIC: ROLE TESTING FRAMEWORK

Molecule

Molecule aids in the development and automated testing of Ansible roles across containers and virtual machines.

TOOL REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/ansible/molecule>

TOPIC: QUICK REFERENCE

Walls Skills – Ansible Cheat Sheet

A handy, concise one-page visual cheat sheet covering core commands, playbook structure, and key Ansible concepts.

CHEAT SHEET LINK

 <https://wall-skills.com/2014/ansible-cheat-sheet/>

TOPIC: OBSERVABILITY & LOGGING

ARA: Ansible Run Analysis

Records playbook execution data, making complex Ansible runs significantly easier to understand, debug, search, and visualize.

TOOL REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/ansible-community/ara>

TOPIC: JINJA2 TESTING

Ansible Template Playground

An interactive online playground for testing and debugging Jinja2 templates and variables without running playbooks.

ONLINE PLAYGROUND

 <https://tech-playground.com/playgrounds/ansible-template/>

TOPIC: SECURITY BASELINES

Ansible Lockdown

Automated security hardening roles for CIS Benchmarks and DISA STIG baselines. Essential for enterprise compliance.

PROJECT LINK

 <https://github.com/ansible-lockdown>

TOPIC: VULNERABILITY PATCHING

Heartbleed OpenSSL Patch Playbook

Historical example playbook illustrating targeted security patching for OpenSSL across Debian systems (CVE-2014-0160).

EXAMPLE REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/jdauphant/patch-openssl-CVE-2014-0160>

TOPIC: STATIC CODE SECURITY

KICS (Keeping Infrastructure as Code Secure)

Static Application Security Testing (SAST) tool for finding security vulnerabilities, compliance issues, and misconfigurations in Ansible code.

TOOL REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/Checkmarx/kics>

TOPIC: COMMUNITY MAINTAINER

Robert de Bock

Extensive high-quality collection of Ansible roles, accompanied by a very informative technical blog on automation best practices.

WEBSITE & BLOG

 <https://robertdebock.nl/>

TOPIC: LOCAL TESTING

Ansible Vagrant Example by geerlingguy

Practical examples demonstrating how to use Vagrant alongside Ansible for rapidly provisioning and deploying to local VMs.

REPOSITORY LINK

 <https://github.com/geerlingguy/ansible-vagrant-examples>

TOPIC: ENTERPRISE PATTERNS

Red Hat Communities of Practice (redhat-cop)

Hub pointing to repositories tagged with Ansible within the Red Hat Communities of Practice GitHub organization.

SEARCH POINTER LINK

 <https://github.com/search?q=topic%3Aansible+org%3Aredhat-cop>

TOPIC: VISUAL EXPLAINER

Ansible101

An interactive visual playbook explainer tool designed to help break down and analyze playbook structure intuitively.

RESOURCE WEBSITE

 <https://ansible101.com>

TOPIC: GRAPH VISUALIZATION

Ansible Playbook Grapher

Command-line tool to generate clear visual graphs representing playbook execution paths, plays, tasks, and role dependencies.

TOOL REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/haidaraM/ansible-playbook-grapher>

TOPIC: WINDOWS AUTOMATION

Testing Windows Roles with Test-Kitchen

Detailed guide explaining how test-kitchen allows spinning up Windows VMs and executing automated role verification tests using Pester.

BLOG POST LINK

 <https://hodgkins.io/testing-ansible-roles-windows-test-kitchen>

TOPIC: TERRAFORM INTEGRATION

terraform.py

Dynamic inventory script that parses Terraform state files to automatically feed infrastructure resources directly into Ansible playbooks.

SCRIPT REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/mantl/terraform.py>

TOPIC: DOCUMENTATION AUTOMATION

Ansigenome

Command line tool to automatically generate documentation, dependency graphs, and standardize documentation structure for Ansible roles.

TOOL REPOSITORY

 <https://github.com/nickjj/ansigenome>

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Questions & Discussion

What Ansible tools, playbooks, or community resources have you found most helpful in your workflows?

PRESENTATION SLIDES ONLINE

<https://www.grothe.us>

Aaron Grothe / WORK
Ansible Community of Practice